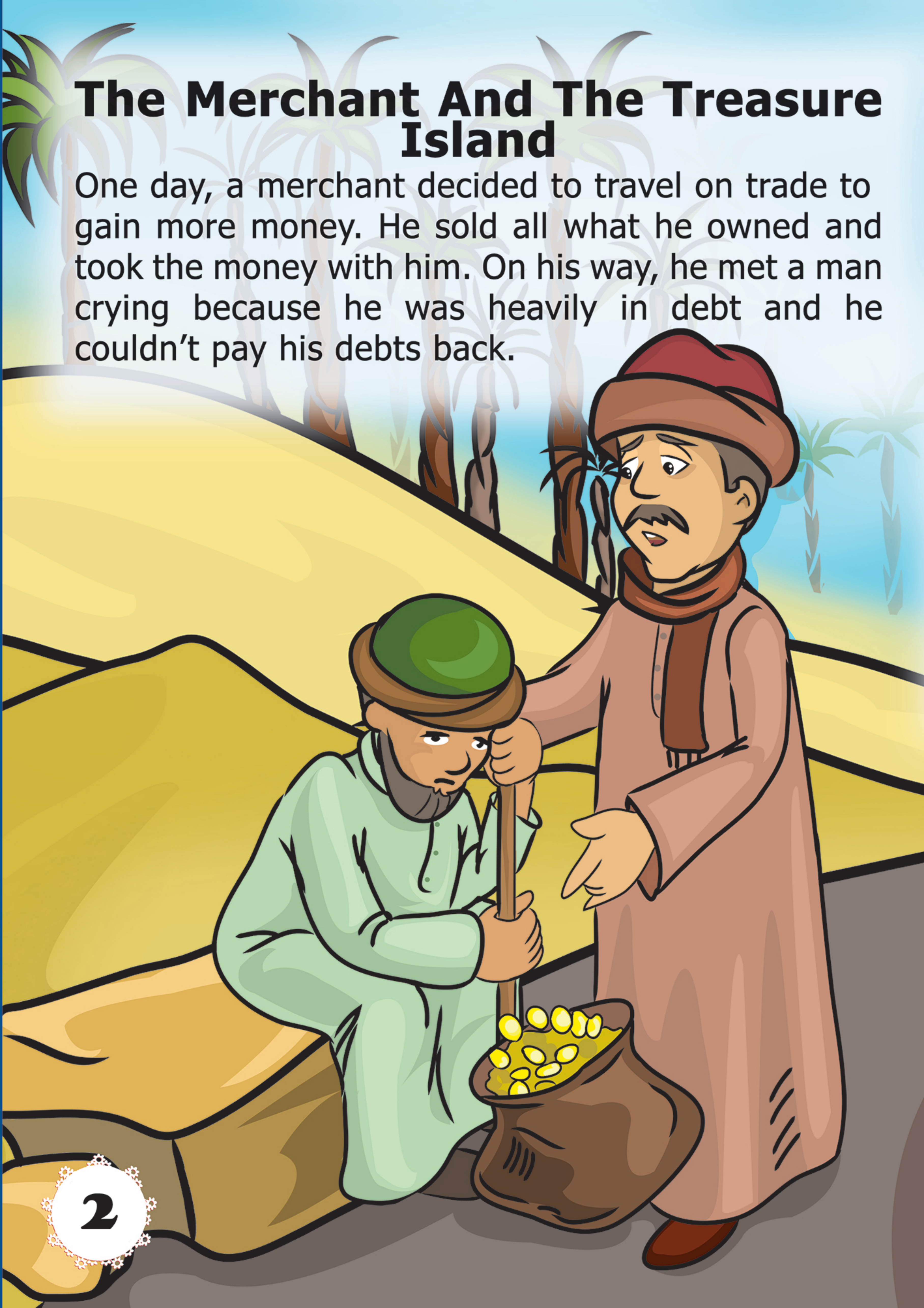


Mum, tell me a story
THE ESCAPING HORSE & OTHER STORIES
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The Merchant And The Treasure Island

One day, a merchant decided to travel on trade to gain more money. He sold all what he owned and took the money with him. On his way, he met a man crying because he was heavily in debt and he couldn’t pay his debts back.

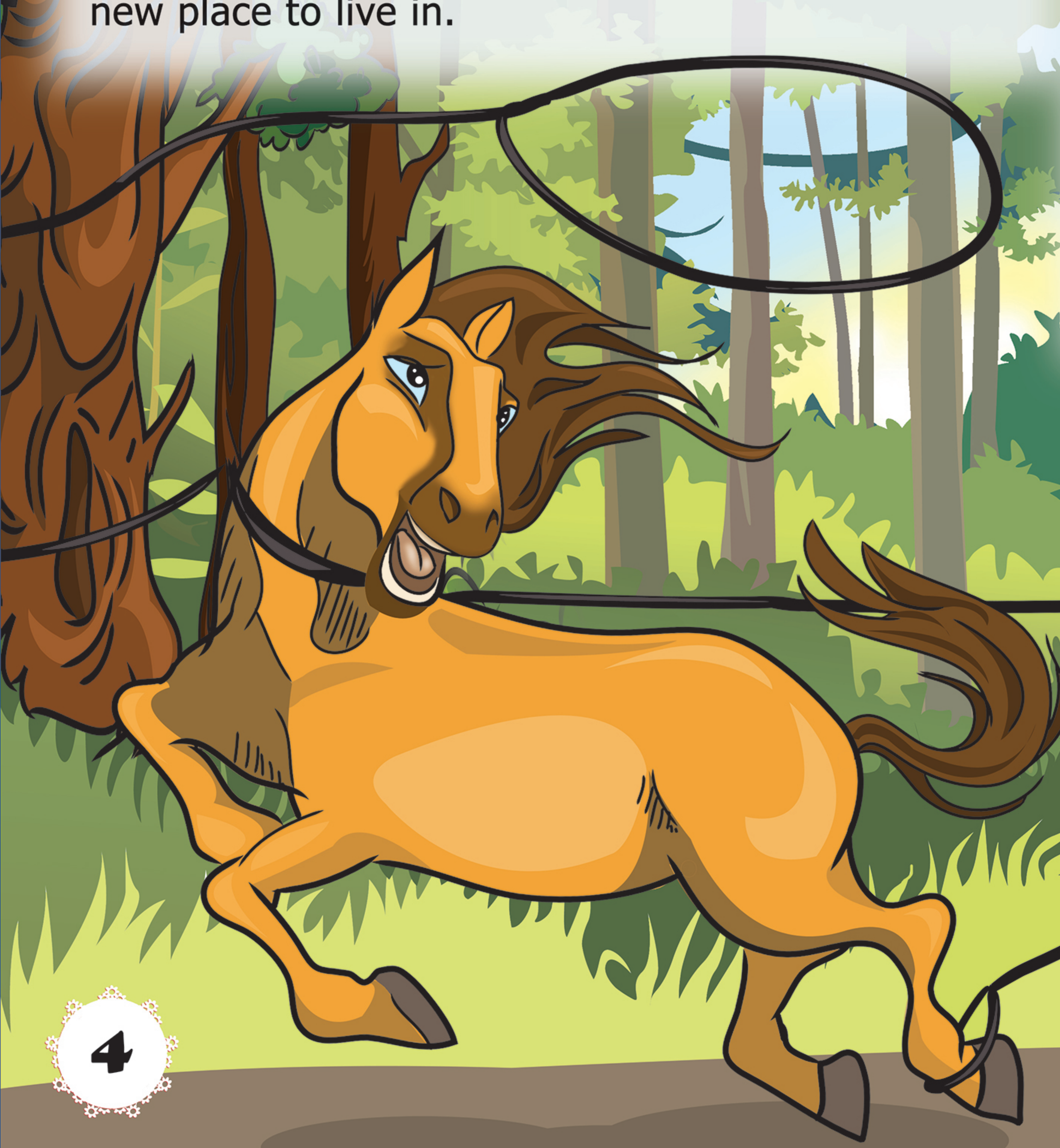


The merchant gave the man all the money he had and got on the boat. The boat sailed on sea for long days. Suddenly, a great storm blew and the boat was shipwrecked. Nobody stayed alive except the merchant. He clung to a small wood log. He swam until the waves threw him on an island. There was nothing on this island except some fruit trees. The man was very hungry so he came near the trees to eat some fruits. But, he stumbled at a big hole in the ground. The hole was full of gold and precious gems. The treasure didn't belong to anybody. The merchant made a small canoe of the wood of the trees. He carried the treasure with him and went back to his town. He became a rich merchant but he never stopped being generous and kind to the poor.



The Escaping Horse

The horse was living in the forest. He ran and jumped freely and played with his friends in the green meadows. One day, the horse got bored from the quiet life of the forest. He decided to look for a new place to live in.



He didn't pay attention to his friends' advice to stay with them. He ran away quickly and he didn't stop until he went out of the forest. Suddenly, he found himself surrounded by hunters. They tied him with ropes and pulled him cruelly. Some days later, the horse was walking slowly pulling a cart loaded with wood. He was very tired and hungry. He remembered his life in the forest and the delicious grass which he used to eat until he became full. He cut the ropes tying him to the cart and ran back quickly to the forest to live freely among his friends who were happy to see him again.



The Donkey And The Crow

One day, the farmer saw the crow pecking the fruits. The farmer was very angry and he kicked the crow away. The crow saw the farmer patting his donkey's back and giving him food. The crow became jealous of the donkey. The crow came near the donkey and asked him why he was working hard. He advised the donkey not to obey the orders of the farmer. The donkey followed the bad advice of the crow.

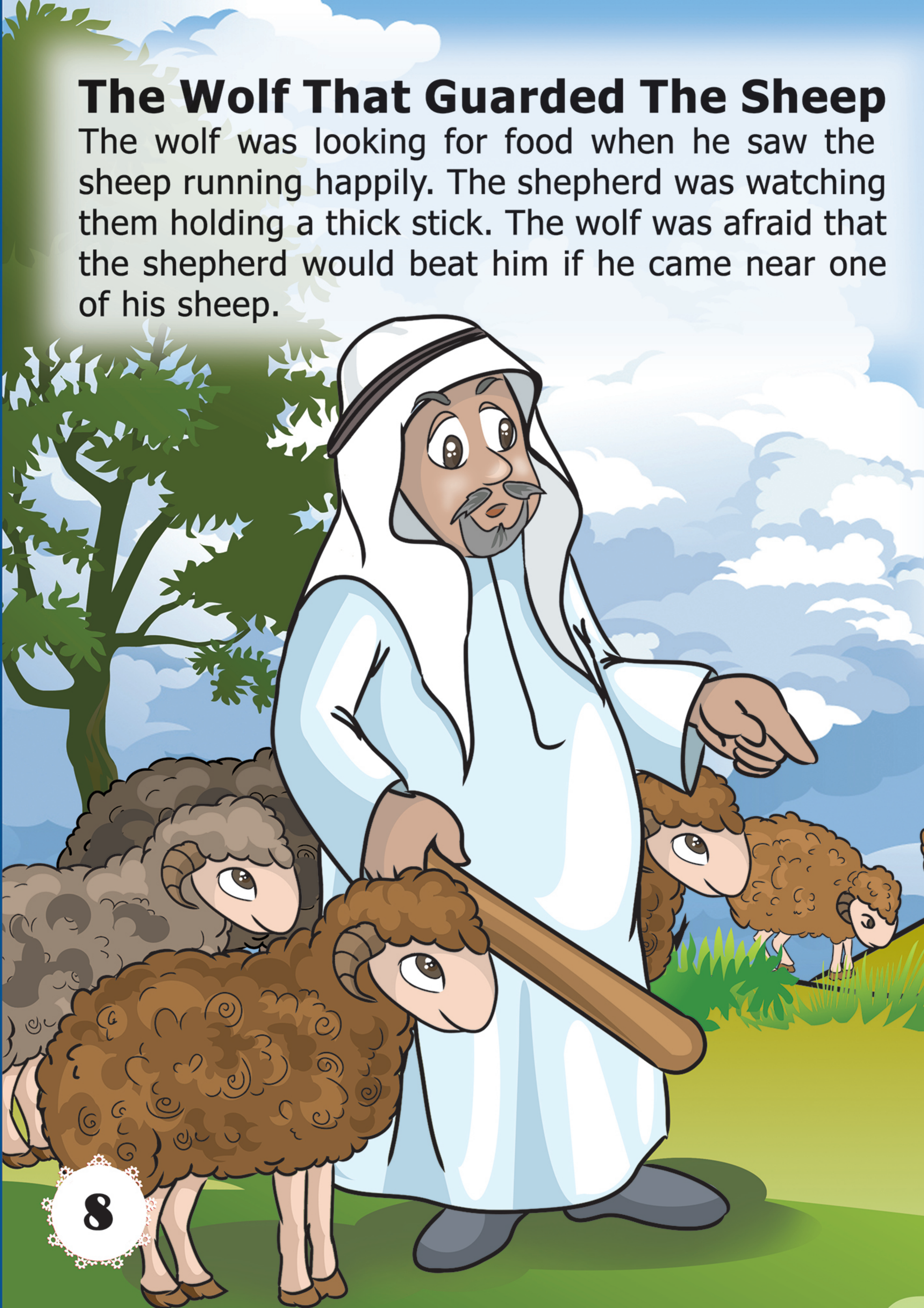


He refused to carry out any work. The farmer tried hard to make the donkey obey him. He, sometimes, patted his back and gave him the food he liked. Other times, he shouted at him. The farmer was fed up with the donkey so he sold him to a stingy man. The stingy man gave him little food and made him carry heavy loads. He beat him cruelly if he didn't move. The donkey remembered his old owner who was treating him kindly. He was sorry and blamed himself for following the advice of the crow.



The Wolf That Guarded The Sheep

The wolf was looking for food when he saw the sheep running happily. The shepherd was watching them holding a thick stick. The wolf was afraid that the shepherd would beat him if he came near one of his sheep.



He thought for some time then he came slowly near the shepherd smiling. He told the shepherd that he was an old wolf and he couldn’t hunt to get food. He offered to guard the shepherd’s sheep in return of some milk. The shepherd hesitated for some time then he agreed. He allowed the wolf to guard the sheep. He watched him for a long time until he trusted him. He left the sheep in his care and slept. The wolf took the chance and stole one of the sheep and ate it. The sheep were terrified. They ran away crying. The shepherd woke up in horror. He blamed himself because he left his sheep in the care of the wolf.





The Brave Giraffe

The giraffe was sad; the animals were making fun of her because she was very tall and her neck moved in a funny way. One day, the animals were playing and the giraffe was watching them from behind a tall tree. Suddenly, she saw the hunter coming near. She called out to warn the animals. The animals didn't pay attention to her warning and they made fun of her as usual. The hunter came nearer, the giraffe wanted to ran away to save herself but she stopped to help the rest of the animals. She thought for some time then she started to run and jump to draw the hunter's attention to her. The hunter chased her and caught her in his trap. The animals were ashamed of themselves and they decided to help the giraffe. They surrounded the hunter who became afraid and ran away. They freed the giraffe from the trap and they all apologized to her.





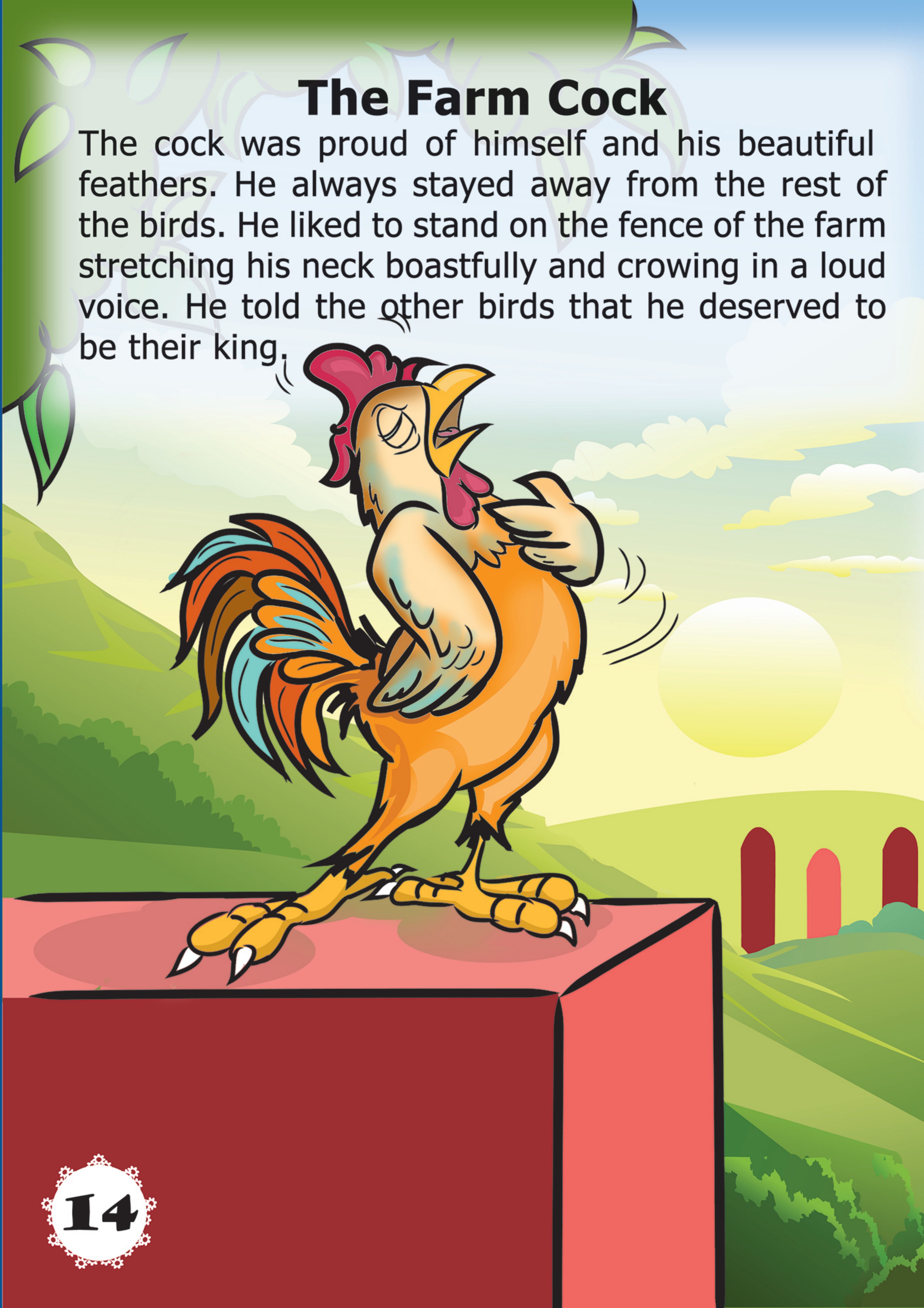
The Turtle And The Frogs

The turtle was walking in the forest when she saw some frogs near the lake. She made fun of them because they were small and they looked strange. The frogs were angry and they refused to talk to her. The turtle didn’t care. Suddenly, a strong wind blew and it made the trees shake. The frogs jumped quickly into the water to hide. The turtle was walking slowly and the wind turned her over. The turtle tried to set herself right but she couldn’t. The turtle was about to die. She cried out for help. The frogs ran quickly to help her. They cooperated together until they were able to set her right. The turtle thanked them and they all lived happily. The turtle never looked down upon the frogs again.



The Farm Cock

The cock was proud of himself and his beautiful feathers. He always stayed away from the rest of the birds. He liked to stand on the fence of the farm stretching his neck boastfully and crowing in a loud voice. He told the other birds that he deserved to be their king.



The bird laughed at him. But, He became too vain that all the birds were angry from him and they stayed away from him. One day, the cock stood on the fence crowing as usual. The fox heard him. The fox was hungry and he was looking for food. The fox came near the cock slowly and was about to attack him. The cock was terrified and he ran away quickly crying for help. The fox chased him. The birds hurried to help him. They forgot that they were angry from him. They all flew towards the fox and they pecked him. The fox escaped while crying from pain. The cock thanked them and he stopped being vain.



Glossary

<u>The merchant and The Treasure Island:</u>

An island: a piece of land surrounded by water from all sides

Canoe: a small boat made for one person or two at most.

<u>The escaping horse:</u>

A cart: a vehicle made of wood. It has two handles in the front. It is pulled by a horse or a donkey tied to the handles by ropes. Wood, vegetable and other things are carried on this cart. This cart is driven by a man sitting in the front holding the rope that ties the horse or the donkey to the cart.

<u>The donkey and the crow:</u>

Market: a large place full of sellers. People go there to buy what they need.

<u>The wolf that guarded the sheep:</u>

Shepherd: someone who looks after the sheep and takes care of them.

<u>The brave giraffe:</u>

Giraffe: It is an animal that lives in the forest. It has tall legs and long neck. It feeds on tree leaves and can run fast.

<u>The farm cock:</u>

Fence: A high structure surrounding the farm and prevents animals from going out.

<u>The turtle and the frogs:</u>

Wind: strong air that makes things fly and tree branches shake.

